

Ho - 435  
The Gerald Hopkin's Log House  
Highland  
Private

Circa 1872

The original log house faces east on a ridge line which looks westward over one of the finest scenic views in Howard County. It may have been an old slave quarters but is believed to have been built by Gerald Hopkins on land once belonging to Hickory Ridge. It later was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Stromberg, whose grandson Paul became owner of the Ellicott City Times in 1939.

It is a three bay wide, one room deep, two story high, gabled roof (running north-south) log structure, now covered partially with wooden shingles. A wide brick exterior chimney is on its south wall and a kitchen-dining room frame-brick veneer, two story high, gabled roof (running east-west) addition on its north wall.

Originally a one story high, shed roofed, open porch ran along the east, west and south elevations. Today it no longer exists but a shed roofed enclosed vestibule rests in the north bay of the east wall.

**7 DESCRIPTION**Ho - 435  
Dist. 5

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

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This 30 feet by 15 feet, three bay wide, one room deep, two story high, gabled roof (running north-south) log house covered with shingles faces east on the top of a ridge line overlooking the middle Patuxent River. The view westward is one of the finest in Howard County, looking across the valley to the ridge west.

Originally this log house had a central east and west door flanked by rectangular double-hung windows. A one story, shed roofed open porch ran around the east, west and south elevation. This along with three second floor east double hung windows, holding six-over-three lights are indicated in an embroidery of the house by Peggy James.

Today a simple enclosed shed roof vestibule is located on the east wall's north bay, where the present rectangular entrance door is located. The original west entrance has been blocked in. This elevation is partially covered with shingles, the remainder of its second floor walls is frame siding..

The south wall holds a wide brick chimney with a small rectangular, first floor window cut into the wall east of it.

The north elevation at one time held two first floor windows and one four light attic casement window. In 1962 a two story high gabled roof (running east-west), frame covered with brick veneer kitchen-dining room addition was constructed.

Each floor of the interior of the log house was at one time two rooms but has been made into one large room below and above. The first floor has been paneled. Evidences of a staircase in the south west corner of the room were found by Mr. Sullivan.

Wide random width floors are featured. A log girder in the center of the living room once supported the second floor. Its placement is indicated on the north wall as you ascend a staircase which Mr. Sullivan built.

The second floor bedroom has the oak and chestnut logs exposed. All its windows now hold six-over-six lights. A line on the wall indicated steps to the attic, whose wide, random width floor boards were put together with tongue and groove construction. The roof rafters are hand hewn, while the roof itself is constructed of hand split oak shakes covered with a standing seam.

A brick veneer foundation replaces the original dirt basement. The log house was set on a flint rock foundation with flat rock above to level up for the logs. A new fire place in the basement was constructed and the basement dug out to allow greater height. See fig. 3.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES circa 1872

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This old log house is significant historically, architecturally and in the area of conservation. Historically, the land on which this old log cabin stands was once a part of Hickory Ridge, patented in 1755 by Greenberry Ridgely and Richard Davis.. It is probable that this log cabin was used once as slave quarters for Hickory Ridge which stands on the east side of Highland Road, the home of Alta Hopkins wife of Judge Clark and mother of Senator James Clark and Judge John Clark. It is also believed to have been built by Gerald Hopkins who migrated to Howard County and bought Hickory Ridge. The Hopkins family were quakers and would not have owned slaves. On March 15, 1872 Gerald Hopkins conveyed the land and premises to William and Justina Stromberg who made their home here. They were an industrious and thrifty couple who farmed the land. A story is told by Mr. Samuel Hopkins, whose grandfather Samuel Hopkins bought Hickory Ridge from his brother, Gerald, and went to visit the Strombergs one day. He found Mrs. Stromberg pulling the one wheel hoe and Mr. Stromberg guiding it. Upon questioning Mr. Stromberg and asking why he wasn't pulling the hoe, he replied "No run of the row straight". He was needed to guide the work. In addition to their farming, Mr. Stromberg ran a store in Highland. His grandson, Paul B. Stromberg, became the sole owner of the Ellicott City Times in 1939.

The Strombergs sold the house and property to Stiney Mitchell who also ran a store in Highland. He is remembered by the local school boys of that time as having a terrible temper. They all gave him a wide berth.

The property finally passed to Sabra and William Cissel Simpson who on October 29, 1954 conveyed the land "together with the buildings" to Martin B. and Louella G. Sullivan, present owners.

Architecturally, the building is noteworthy as an example of an old log house.

Much of its original construction is exposed and can be seen in particular in the upstairs bedroom.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Significance(cont.)

In the field of conservation it is also noteworthy. It is located on the ridge of one of the loveliest valleys in Howard County which is presently being threatened by the construction of the PEPCO power line. The conservation of our natural and scenic resources as well as our cultural ones is an issue which Americans faced when they initiated the National Park Service in the 1930's. It is one which still must be addressed on the local level if America is to conserve some of its loveliest scenic areas for future generations to enjoy.

For these reasons this log house should be considered for inclusion to the National Register and any future local landmark legislation.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**Ho-435  
Dist. 5

Howard County Land Records

Interview with Mr. M. Burke Sullivan at his home on 18 October, 1977.  
Interview with Mr. Samuel Hopkins of Alexander Brown by phone, Nov. 1, 1977.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.78 Acres

Please see Attachment, Tax Map 40, p. 188

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Liber 584, folio 109

## LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE Maryland COUNTY Howard

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Cleora Barnes Thompson, Archivist

ORGANIZATION

Office of Planning &amp; Zoning-Comprehensive Planning Section 465-5000 x257

STREET &amp; NUMBER

3450 Court House Drive

DATE

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Ellicott City

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

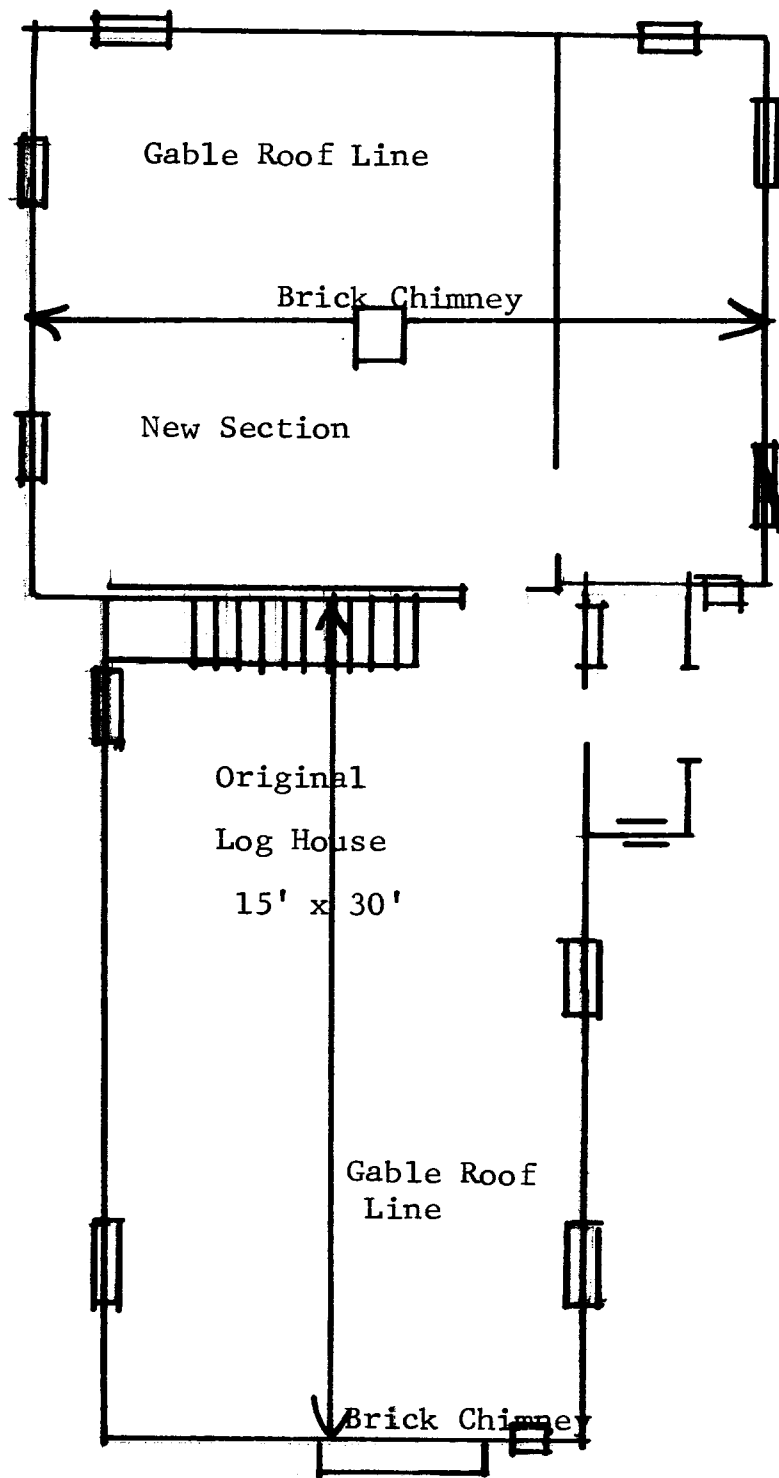


Figure 1  
 Ho - 435  
 Gerald Hopkin's  
 Log House  
 First Floor Plan

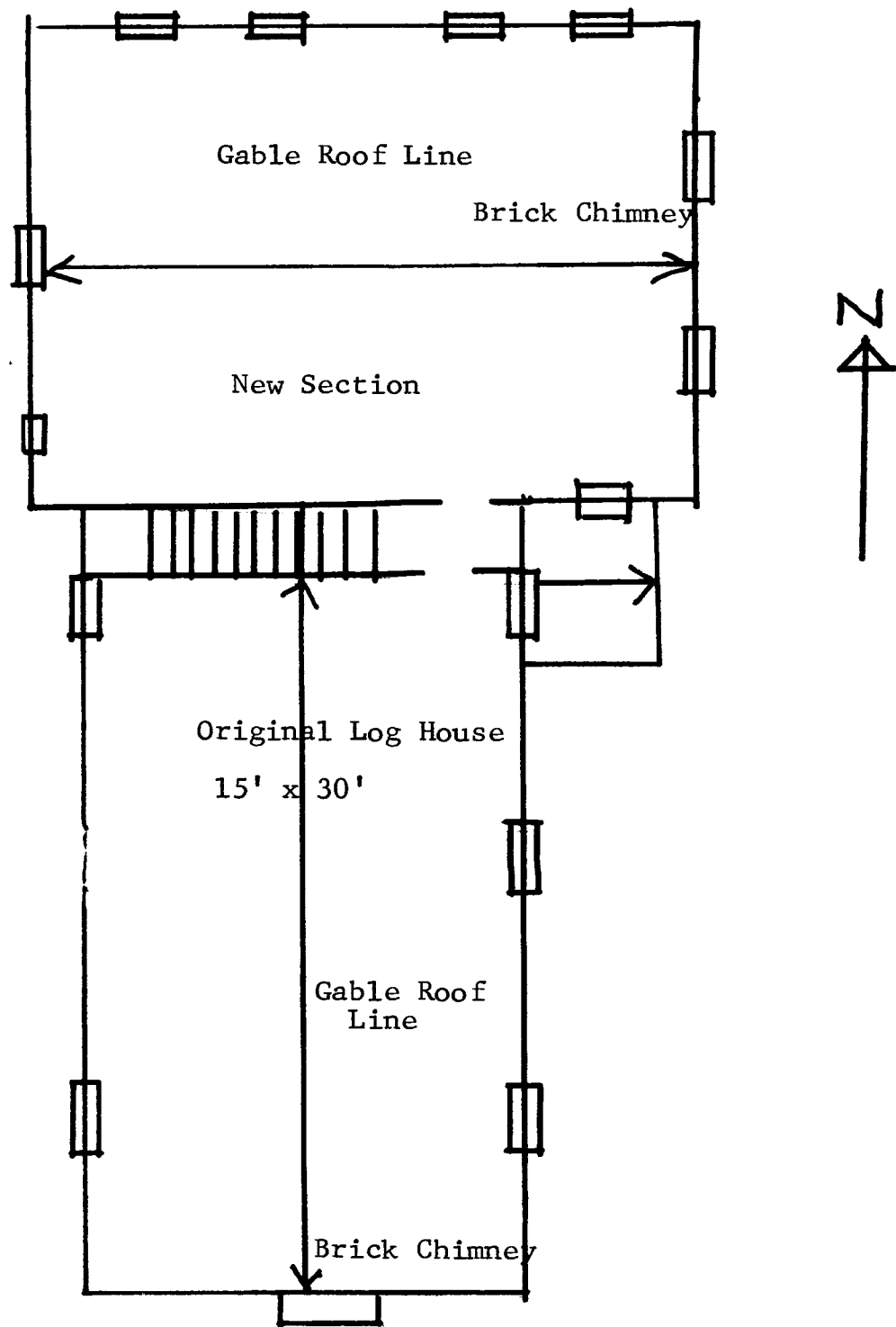


Figure 2  
Ho - 435  
Gerald Hopkin's  
Log House  
Second Floor Plan

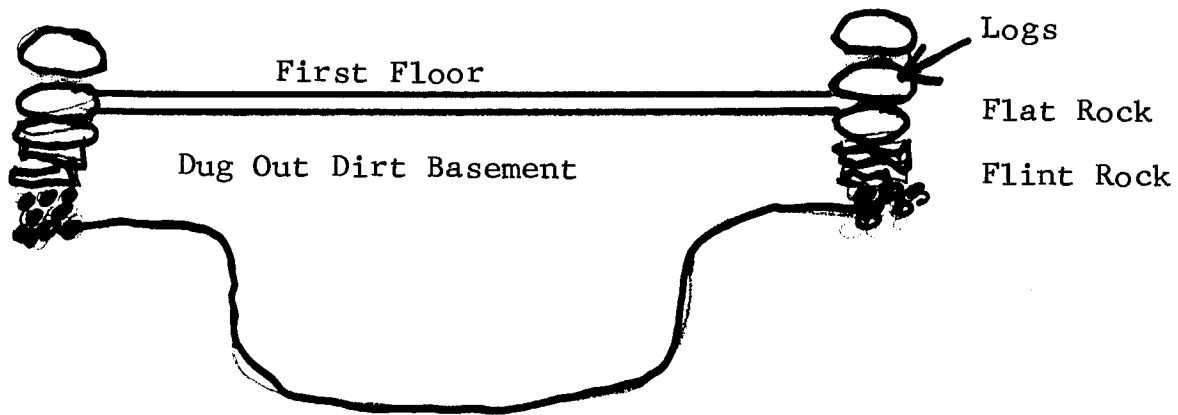
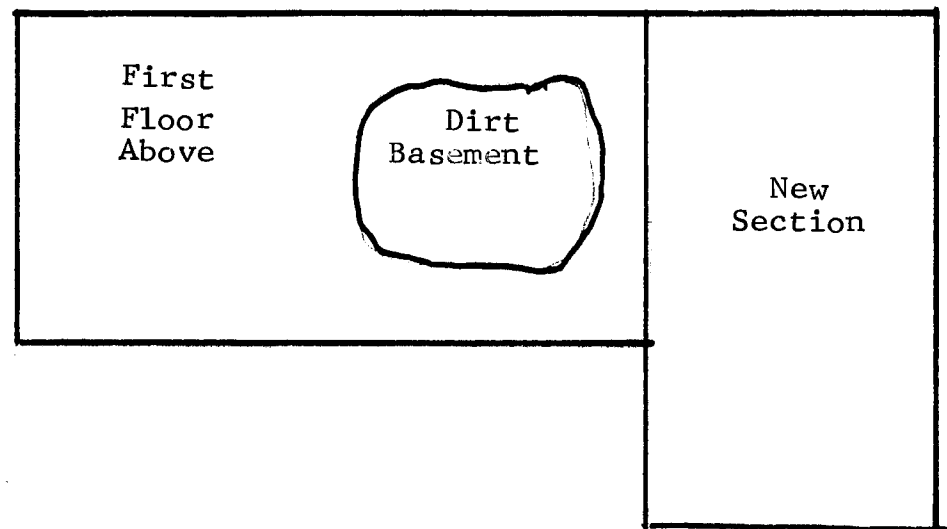


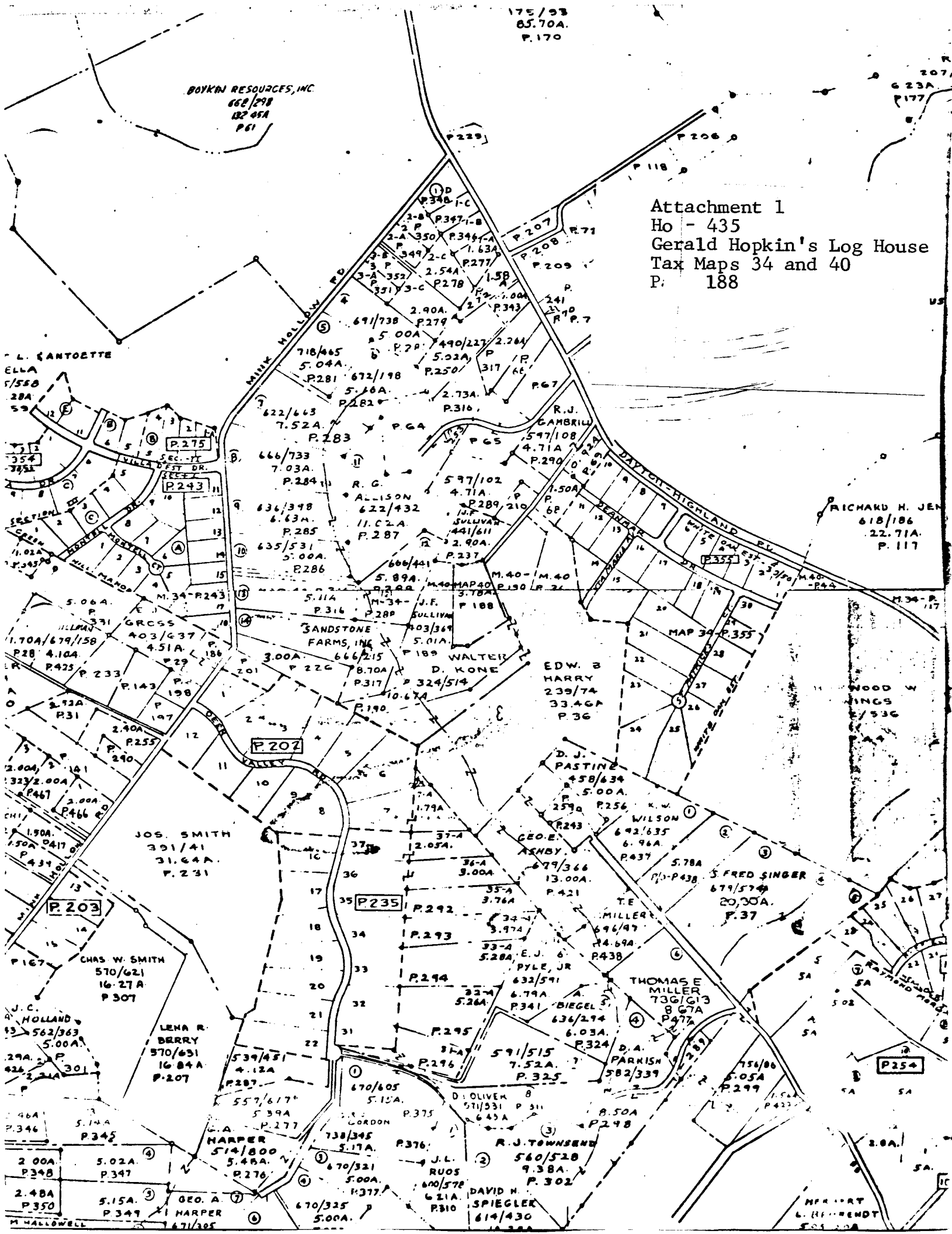
Figure 3  
 Ho - 435  
 Gerald Hopkin's Log House  
 Basement Plans



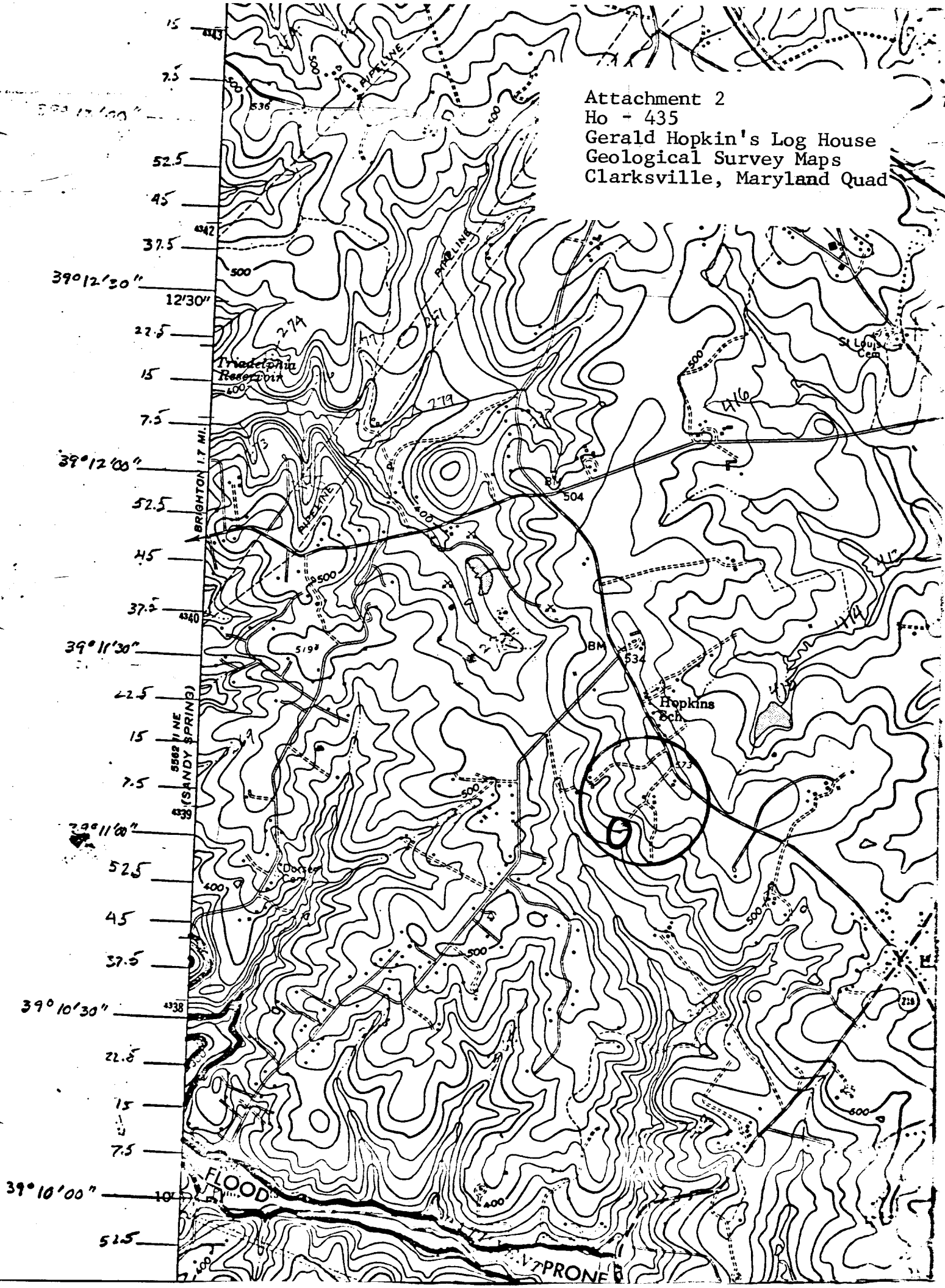


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P. 170

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G 23A.  
P177/



Gerald Hopkin's Log House  
Geological Survey Maps  
Clarksville, Maryland Quad





HO-435  
THE GERALD HOPKINS  
LOG HOUSE  
(SOUTH EAST)